GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2968
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2017
Char Dham Mahamarg Vikas Pariyojna
Mahendran Shri C.

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has started the Char Dham Mahamarg Vikas Pariyojna recently;
(b) whether this is an ambitious initiative to improve connectivity to the Char Dham pilgrimage centres in the Himalayas and if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the proposal has all-weather roads which will have tunnels, bridges and fly-overs to enhance road safety and uninterrupted access and if so, the details thereof;
(d) whether the Government is planning such initiatives in other pilgrimage centres too; and
(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) to (c): Ministry of Road Transport and Highway has undertaken projects for improvement of National Highway connectivity to Chardham i.e, Yamnotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath and a part of route of Kailash Mansarover Yatra to provide all weather connectivity, safe and comfortable journey. The proposed improvement includes provisions like widening of existing narrow and geometrically deficient National Highways to 2 lane with paved shoulders standards, protection of land slide hazard zones, construction of bypasses, major bridges (25 nos), tunnels (2 nos), viaducts (3 nos) etc. The tentative cost of improvement of about 900 km. National Highway based on Detailed Project Report is around Rs.11,700 crore which includes civil construction cost, land acquisition, forest clearance and utility shifting cost.

(d) to (e): For development of tourism infrastructure in the country, the Ministry of Tourism has launched two schemes in 2014-15 i.e. Swadesh Darshan - Integrated Development of Theme-Based Tourist Circuits and PRASAD- Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive. Under these Schemes, central financial assistance is provided for last mile connectivity and approach road leading to tourist sites/destinations including pilgrimage centres.

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